



High School Counselor Workshop

October 23, 2015

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Federal Update

Presenter: Richard Blasen
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Q. Will you please explain more about the College Scorecard and where to access this information?

- A. The College Scorecard provides students and families critical information they need to make smart decisions about where to enroll for higher education. The College Scorecard hold colleges accountable for cost, value, and quality. Consumers can access a College Scorecard for every degree-granting institution here: <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>.

Q. How do you access the PSA's?

- A. Federal Student Aid Public Service Announcements can be used to help spread the word about the availability of federal student aid. The PSA's can be found here: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/about/PSAs>.

Q. What is the best advice to give middle school parents and students about how to pay for college? Parents with multiple children in college?

- A. Junior high or middle school is a great time for student to take control of their college preparation. A checklist for students and parents is available here: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/prepare-for-college/checklists/middle-school>. A free publication is also available, "My Future, My Way": a Workbook for Middle and Junior High School Students: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/sites/default/files/my-future-my-way.pdf>.

Q. What is the best advice to give parents with multiple children in college?

- A. Make sure parents indicate on the FAFSA that they have multiple children in college. The overall costs of multiple children going to college is certainly higher, however; the individual financial aid awards can also be higher. Also, have parents do their research and find out if colleges offer tuition discounts for siblings.

When a student files the FAFSA and a parent signature is required, the parent may use the same FSA ID to sign their applications if more than one child is attending college.

Q. Seniors this year will use tax information based on 2015 taxes when they apply for aid their sophomore year of college, they can start in October. Do they still use the 2015 tax information which would be considered prior prior year tax information?

- A. Beginning with the 2017-2018 FAFSA, the start date to file the FAFSA will be October 1. This means students who complete the 2017-18 FAFSA will be able to submit the form anytime between October 1, 2016 through June 30, 2018. FAFSA applicants will provide income information from one tax year earlier "prior-prior year." This means the that the 2017-18 FAFSA will collect 2015 income information.

For current high school seniors filing the 2016-17 FAFSA, applicants will provide information from the "prior tax year." For example, 2016-17 applicants must report 2015 income information. This same student, beginning with the 2017-18 FAFSA, will use "prior-prior year" and must report 2015 income information (again). When this student is a college sophomore, they will file the 2018-19 FAFSA and will use 2016 income information.

A summary of the changes beginning with the 2017-18 FAFSA can be found here: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/sites/default/files/fafsa-changes-17-18.pdf>.

Q. What financial aid resources are available for undocumented of DACA approved students?

- A. DACA students are encouraged to complete the FAFSA. Although DACA student are not eligible for federal student aid, they may still be eligible for institutional aid, and submitting a FAFSA can help you access those other types of aid. A reference guide is available for DACA students: http://unitedwedream.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/DACAStepsforFAFSA2014_Final.pdf.

Q. What tools are available for those without internet access?

- A. Many Federal Student Aid Publications are available for order for free at: <https://www.fsapubs.gov/app/Search/ElectronicCatalog.aspx?Type=All>.

The publications include:

- 2015-2016 FAFSA
- 2015-2016 FAFSA Worksheet

- 2015-2016 Federal Student Aid at a Glance
- College Preparation Checklist
- Direct Loan Basis for Parents/Students
- Funding Your Education: The Guide to Federal Student Aid
- My Future, My Way
- and More!

State Update

Presenter: Shannon Price
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Q. DACA students have been told by SSG that they qualify for TIP but the colleges are saying otherwise. Can you clarify?

- A. The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy allows undocumented immigrants that entered the country before their 16th birthday an exemption from deportation. DACA students are not eligible for SSG programs, including TIP. Program eligibility is restricted to Michigan residents who are U.S. Citizens, permanent residents, or approved refugees.

Q. For the Michigan Competitive Scholarship, is the MME ACT score used, and can a student submit a higher composite score for consideration?

- A. The MME ACT score is reviewed for the merit portion of the Michigan Competitive Scholarship (MCS). A qualifying ACT score is 23 or higher. Students can take the exam multiple times and we accept the highest score when reviewing for MCS eligibility. The MCS award is both merit based and need based. Therefore, achieving a qualifying score does not guarantee that a student will be awarded the MCS. Beginning with the class of 2017, the SAT will be reviewed instead of the ACT.

Q. If a student is eligible for the Michigan Competitive Scholarship and is an Early College student, do they have to complete the FAFSA in their true senior year even if they are planning to complete a 13th year?

- A. To qualify for MCS a student must possess a high school diploma, certificate of completion, or general educational development (GED) certificate. Since Early College students receive a high school diploma and Associate Degree after the completion of the 13th year they would not qualify for state aid programs during their time in Early College. Through the Federal Pell Grant Experiment some high school students can qualify for a Pell Grant as a high school student in Dual Enrollment and Early College programs.

Q. What date will be used as the priority cutoff date once students are able to start applying in October using prior-prior year tax data?

- A. Students in the class of 2017 will be able to file a 2017-18 FAFSA as early as Oct. 1, 2016 (first year of prior-prior FAFSA implementation), rather than beginning on Jan. 1, 2017 (the traditional release date). The 2017-18 FAFSA can be completed using 2015 tax information. Currently the State of Michigan deadline for priority consideration for aid programs is Mar. 1 (this would mean Mar. 1, 2017 for the 2017-18 FAFSA). As of now, we do not plan to shift this date; however, this is subject to change. Regardless, if the priority deadline date is changed we will communicate this to students, families, high school counselors, and college access professionals before the 2017-18 FAFSA is released.

Q. Why is notification limited to one institution for the Michigan Competitive Scholarship recipients? This seems like an unnecessary barrier for students/parents that may alter their chosen institution late and forget or don't understand that they must notify the other institutions of this award.

- A. Up to ten colleges may be selected on a student's FAFSA. Unfortunately, there is not a way for our office to know which institution to send MCS funds to when multiple schools are listed; therefore, it is our policy to assume that the student is attending the college listed first. Students can contact our office to inform us that they are attending a different institution or, beginning in early 2016, they can utilize the student portal of MiSSG to accomplish this update. We appreciate the assistance of high school counselors and college access professionals in informing students to list their first choice college first on the FAFSA school listing section and the options of changing school information with our office or on MiSSG.

Q. Are students eligible for Michigan Competitive Scholarship and Michigan Tuition Grants throughout college?

A. Students may receive the equivalent of ten semesters or 15 terms of full-time assistance as an undergraduate. Students must meet all of the eligibility requirements and apply by priority deadline dates. Details can be found on program fact sheets on our Web site.

Q. What is the eligibility age range for TIP?

A. Students may be identified as TIP eligible as early as age 12. Since the student must be Medicaid eligible for 24 months out of a 36-consecutive month period, we begin to look at the 36-month period prior to the date of the student's 12th birthday and go forward until high school completion. Students must begin using TIP by enrolling at a participating college within four years of high school completion. Eligibility ends six years from the date of high school completion, which includes high school diplomas, certificates, and GEDs.

MiSSG Demonstration

Presenter: George Gasser
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Q. Do you need one Data Use Agreement signed every year or only when there is a change in personnel (counselor/principal)?

A. A new Data Use Agreement (DUA) must be signed for every academic year. The State of Michigan defines an academic year as September 1st through August 31st. The agreement must be signed by a High School Principal or Superintendent (Data Receiver Point of Contact/Data Custodian) and they may choose one data receiver designee who:

- is a current high school/ISD employee, and
- is housed within the high school building, and
- has direct contact with student

The data receiver designee will have access to MiSSG information, including FAFSA completion data and TIP eligibility.

Q. When is the MiSSG Portal going to be available for High School Counselors?

A. Early 2016.

Q. When will the MiSSG Portal be available for students?

A. As of now, only MTG and MCS programs have been implemented for MiSSG, therefore, the student portal is currently only* available for students with a FAFSA on file. Students who completed a FAFSA after July 6th will not have had their FAFSAs loaded into MiSSG and will be unable to create an account until the following year.

*Other SSG programs will be implemented in the future, which will further amend the rules for the account creation and student portal access.

Q. When do you expect the TIP, GEAR-UP, and Fostering Futures information will be integrated into MiSSG?

A. We estimate TIP to be on MiSSG in early spring of 2016, with GEAR UP and Fostering Futures in late-2016/early-2017.

Q. How can we use the FAFSA lookups for students?

A. FAFSA completion data will be available on the high school counselor portal in MiSSG. We match CEPI information to provide a listing of your students and whether or not we have received a FAFSA for them.

Q. Will Upward Bound programs be included in gaining access to MiSSG when Gear-Up programs are granted access in the future?

A. No, access will only be available to high school counselors/ISD employees who are housed in the high school building and have direct contact with students. If high school counselors choose to share reports from MiSSG with other college access groups, then liability for the data's security rests solely on them.

Transitioning from ACT to SAT

Presenter: Steve Viger
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Q. Is it okay for counselors to still encourage students to take the ACT, or should SAT be the only test considered?

- A. Colleges are changing over their admissions standards to align with the SAT. Additionally, Student Scholarships and Grants will only use the SAT score to determine eligibility for the Michigan Competitive Scholarship (MCS). If a student does not take the SAT, it not only impacts their ability to get MCS but also might impact their ability to get accepted to college if they don't take the test.

Q. Where can you get the ACT to SAT correlation scores from?

- A. ACT and SAT Concordance Tables can be found here:
<http://research.collegeboard.org/sites/default/files/publications/2012/7/researchnote-2009-40-act-sat-concordance-tables.pdf>.

Q. Schools have been informed that SAT won't be sending testing materials to schools until 2 weeks prior to the exam day. This is not enough time. Can you speak to this and can schools get exam materials earlier?

- A. If a school feels like they absolutely cannot finish the pre-administrative activities within two weeks, they can call College Board and request to change shipment dates. (888) SAT-HELP

Q. If a student took the PSAT on October 14th, when will their scores be linked to Khan Academy to provide a better test prep plan?

- A. Scores will be released mid-December and information will become available on how to link their scores to Kahn Academy. The functionality (because no scores are out right now) is not available. Keep in mind, students will need both a Khan Academy account and a College Board account as these are what are actually linked.

Applying for Financial Aid

Presenter: Lori Vedder
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Q. Is it important to apply for an FSA ID in advance of starting the application?

- A. The FSA ID is comprised of a username and a password and can be used to login to certain Federal Student Aid Web sites. An FSA ID can be created here: <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm?tab=register>. You can use your FSA ID immediately to complete, sign, and submit a new FAFSA.

To use your FSA ID for other tasks, such as starting a renewal FAFSA, logging into studentloans.gov or nslds.ed.gov, the FSA ID will go through a confirmation process with the Social Security Administration (which takes 1-3 days) before you can access.

Q. Is there a different FSA ID for the student and parent?

- A. Yes, both the student and the parent will need a FSA ID. The FSA ID serves as a legal signature, and only should be known and used by the owner. If a parent has more than one child attending college, the parent can use the same FSA ID to sign their student's application.

Q. How do step parents factor into the FAFSA process? Do they have any obligations?

- A. Is a student has a stepparent who is married to the legal parent whose information is being reported on the FAFSA, the student must also provide information about the stepparent as well. Including the stepparent's information on the FAFSA helps form an accurate picture of the family's total financial strength.

Q. What would a student do if a parent refuses to disclose information for the FAFSA?

- A. The student should still complete the FAFSA and complete the following steps:
- When the FAFSA asks you whether you are able to provide information about your parents, so no.
 - On the next screen, select the option that say you don't have a special circumstance but you still can't provide parent information.
 - The FAFSA will then explain that if your parent's don't support you and refuse to provide their information, you may submit a FAFSA; however you won't be eligible for federal student aid other than possibly an unsubsidized loan. The financial aid office at the college you plan to attend will decide if you can receive an unsubsidized loan. If you agree to this, you may submit the FAFSA.
 - Your FAFSA information will be sent to the colleges you list, but you won't get an EFC.

- You must immediately contact your school's financial aid office to discuss the possibility of getting an unsubsidized loan.
 - Encourage your parents to provide their information, doing so won't require them to support you in any way, it'll just help you be considered for as many resources of financial aid as possible
- *Source: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/parent-info#unwilling-parents>

Q. The IRS information transfer, can this be completed before the three weeks after the parents file their income taxes?

- A. The IRS Data Retrieval Tool allows students and parents to access the IRS tax return information needed to complete the FAFSA and transfer the data directly into their FAFSA from the IRS Web site. Students or parents must wait 3 weeks from the date of filing their tax returns electronically (or 11 weeks for those who filed through the mail) before they can use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool. Otherwise, they will need to enter their tax return information manually or return at a later date to transfer their tax return information into the FAFSA.

Financial Aid Award Letter

Presenter: Pam Palermo
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n/a

Public Community College

Presenter: Chris Pellerito
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n/a

Public Four Year University

Presenter: Matt Bohlen
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Q. How often do college admissions check social media site when a student is applying?

- A. "Most institutions do not have a policy or practice of reviewing social media sites during the admission process..."
The Chicago Tribune has published an article on this topic: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/post-tribune/opinion/ct-ptb-davich-college-social-media-st-0518-20150515-story.html>.

Private Not for Profit College

Presenter: Hillary Teague
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Q. Is the Michigan College Alliance doing a "Promoting the Privates" Workshop this year in Lansing? Why isn't the Web site and Facebook page updated?

- A. A workshop will not be held this year. You may reach out to Michigan Colleges Alliance for more information at: 248-356-3114 or email info@michigancolleges.org.

Workforce Development Agency (MAT2®)

Presenter: Tangie Jones
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Q. What types of jobs do students get? Are they geared towards IT or all types of trades?

- A. Students become qualified in cutting edge careers in advanced manufacturing using 3-D models, computer simulations, software development and more. Possible career paths include:
- Mechatronics Technician
 - IT Technician
 - Technical Product Design Technician
 - CAN Manufacturing Technician

Q. Is MAT2 only available for high school seniors?

- A. High school seniors and anyone who has received a high school diploma/GED may apply for the MAT2 program.

Q. When should students apply for MAT2?

- A. MAT2 applications are accepted and reviewed on an ongoing basis; however, it is recommended that interested individuals apply as early as possible in order to have the best chance to be selected by a participating employer.

Fall 2016 program application deadline dates:

- Early Application Deadline: January 1, 2016
- Spring Deadline: April 1, 2016
- Last Call Deadline: June 1, 2016

For more information on the application process, please visit: <http://www.mitalent.org/mat2-application-process/>.

Military

Presenter: Michael Hickman
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While an active-duty service member can accrue 36 months of continuous qualifying active duty service to qualify for the full Post 9/11 GI Bill benefit, please note that National Guard and Reserve members can earn Post 9/11 benefits based on aggregate qualifying active duty (for example, multiple deployments that are most likely less than 36 months each). For the Post 9/11 GI Bill, benefits are pro-rated according to the length of aggregate active duty service (or continuous service if less than 36 months), starting from 40% and increasing according to additional qualifying service.

http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/post911_gibill.asp Review Program Pamphlet for the details.

Academic Persistence (EduGuide)

Presenter: Bryan Taylor
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n/a

Helpful Tools for Students and Counselors (Sallie Mae)

Presenter: Jenny Chandler
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n/a

Strategies to Encourage FAFSA Completion Initiatives & Planning a Financial Aid Night

Presenter: Sally Foster
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SSG High School Services/Outreach

Presenter: Jennifer Maurer
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